



Newsletter - December 2024

Letter From the President.....	2
Grant Update.....	3
Then and Now: The Elkridge Pharmacy.....	3
Mystery Image.....	4
4th of July Tradition Continues.....	4
From the Curator.....	5
Viaduct Newspaper Update.....	6
Website Update.....	6



Mystery Image: Do you know what this is? (or was?). Read on to find out!



The Elkridge Heritage Society

5825 Main Street
Elkridge, MD 21075

elkridgeheritage@gmail.com

Donation QR Code:



Donation Link:

<https://elkridgeheritage.org/donate/>

Letter From the President



Leading up to this news letter I was pondering what to write, and decided to look

through some of the Viaduct Newspapers (on our website) to see what was going on in Elkridge around this time frame when I was kid. I quickly realized the biggest event every year in June was Elkridge Days, including the parade and carnival. I remember our community coming together to celebrate everything Elkridge, whether that be the Fire Department organizing the parade every year, or all of the local organizations coming together at the carnival. I remember silk screening my own t-shirt. I remember riding what were probably dangerous rides. I remember being in the marching band at Howard High and marching in the parade. I remember Mom being a judge for the majorettes in the parade, and at a booth for the Elkridge Evening Quilters at the carnival raffling off a handmade quilt where the proceeds went to a local family in need. I remember a sense of community.

Today I sit here with only 6 of us board members trying to help save our Elkridge history, saving the Brumbaugh house, and hoping what we are currently building helps bring back a sense of that community we so currently miss. I am looking forward to showing off the fruits of our current labor, and looking forward to celebrating our hard work this September when we have an open house and

show off the renovations we have completed, and show off all of our new historical displays of Elkridge History. I am hoping this history spurs memories like mine. I am hoping this history spurs our new community members to get involved with one of the many organizations which are still here in Elkridge. I am hoping what we are doing spins into more displays and renovations, and events like this organization was known for in the past.

Our dream of building a museum of Elkridge History and making ourselves a viable organization is coming to fruition but we need help from our Elkridge community. We are going to need help staffing open hours. We need donors to keep us viable. We need members to see what we are doing, share their excitement for what we are doing, and to support our mission by staying current on dues / and encouraging others to join. We need volunteers to help plan events around history. We need that sense of community we used to have to help us stay a viable organization.

We look forward to seeing everyone at our upcoming events and open house, but in the meantime, if you would like to volunteer to help us, or you would like to donate, please contact us at elkridgeheritage@gmail.com, or go to our webpage at www.elkridgeheritage.org/donate/ to donate to us or become a member.

Craig Pool
EHS President

Fundraiser - Elkridge Trivia Night at Daniels

Please plan to attend our first annual Elkridge Trivia Night on Sunday July 13, 2025 at 5pm. Okay, it is really a Trivia Evening! We have been working on questions (hey, there might be clues in this

newsletter!). It is \$40 per 4-person team. If you don't have a team, please come and we will help you find a team! This is going to be a lot of fun, but we need YOU to make it a success!

Join the Fun!

Elkridge Trivia Night
Fundraiser for Elkridge Heritage Society
@Daniels Restaurant

5:00 PM
July 13, 2025

Est. 1734

Support EHSI!

\$40 per team of 4
pay by cash or PayPal

If you don't have a team, we will help you join one.

Grant Update

We have almost finished spending the Pay-Go Grant from Howard County - such a generous, desperately needed gift! A good chunk this spring and early summer was spent on sprucing up the interior of the downstairs. It is so beautiful now! We can't wait to show you!

We also received a mini-grant from the Patapsco Valley Heritage Area, for \$4500, for non-capital projects. This has gone to creating an immersive experience about Dr. Brumbaugh in his waiting room. While it will still contain his sofa, his gate-leg table, and his diplomas, some things have changed. For one thing, the diplomas were turning to cornflakes, and so we had Digital Maryland scan them, and we will store them in an archival safe manner. Meanwhile we had Shutterfly print and frame the scanned images. They look aged, and while newly framed, they are so much like the originals, you may not be able to tell! Meanwhile the originals will be kept safe.

We also created a Brumbaugh Baby poster to go above the bookcase. We will have a high quality display case for one of his doctor bags, his microscope, some medicines, and maybe some books. We have a poster detailing what his life was like. There is a separate biographical poster, and on

the flip side (on a poster stand) is a summary of his awards.

This is just the beginning of all the work we have put into our displays! We had to match the grant with \$1710, so we actually got to spend over \$6200! The rest of the matching is from all our labor of love - the graphic design and research work that has gone into these displays. We are almost ready to start loading it all in! Once the contractor gets through our punch list, we will begin decorating.

We received a Preservation Maryland Grant for capital projects for \$9500. We hope this is enough to paint the back of the house which is peeling, and to fix some of the electric circuits that blew out when the plumbing leaked in 2023. We also need to do some deep cleaning upstairs, and have the construction dust cleaned out of the ducts.

We have applied for some more non-capital grant money from the Maryland Heritage Areas. We hope to hear this month if we will receive it. It will help us with more displays, and our celebration of Elkridge as part of Howard County's contribution to the 250th anniversary celebration of the Declaration of Independence.

Then and Now: The Elkridge Pharmacy



At 5808 Main Street, this building housed the Elkridge Pharmacy for nearly 100 years. Our first pharmacists to own the building were Thomas and Kate Gilmer, starting in 1905. Thomas died in 1913, and Kate carried on until she sold the building in 1921. Before 1905, the building was Soper's Store.

Some think the building was built by James Hill who owned many of the properties on that side of Main Street from 1815 until he and his wife Ann gradually sold them from the 1830s to the 1860s. Mr. Hill owned the property, but this building was probably built later.

James and Ann Hill are people we are actively researching. They are listed in the census records as free people of color. There are rumors that Mr. Hill was a sea captain, and that he owned the wharf, but right now we are treating them as rumors until records can confirm or deny. If you know anything about James and Ann Hill, have any stories of them passed down in letters or diaries, please share!

We will have a display devoted to the Pharmacy in our Business Room at the Brumbaugh House. We can't wait for you to come see it in person! Meanwhile, we won't say much more about this because the topic might show up in our first annual Trivia Night!

We will also have a display about James Hill in the People Room when we finish our research.



Mystery Image

The mystery image at the beginning of this newsletter is of course The Cider Mill Farm, a favorite pastime for many in the area older than 30.

The Fall was the greatest, picking out pumpkins and sipping apple cider, taking pony rides and hay-rides! Good times, so sorely missed. The Cider Mill closed down in 2002. The development there now has its name, and the pond was adapted to serve as drainage, and turtle viewing.

4th of July Tradition Continues

By Tina Barton



The Elkridge Assembly Rooms is being maintained by a small nonprofit, mostly residents of Lawyers Hill Historic District and Rockburn Land Trust. They welcome people to join from everywhere, however. They hold monthly potluck dinners in the rooms during warm months, and other events throughout the year. But one event has been continuing for many decades, and that is their Fourth of July Picnic.



It features activities such as a hay ride and the reading of the Declaration of Independence, where people sitting in a circle take turns reading passages.

Above are some of the advertisements from decades past. They are on display at the Elkridge Assembly Rooms. Continue reading for our Curator Mary Bahr's humorous recollection of one such event.

From the Curator



A Beer On the Fourth (Humor Resuscitated) By Mary Bahr

It gets so good a man cannot even "hold" a beer without an unforeseen young revolutionary prohibitionist tagging along behind him, ready to protest.



What with all the people out there who do imbibe, I grew up with parents who did not. Okay? When I was very young, I didn't see alcoholic spirits drunk.

Copying my parents, my universe held no scotch and soda, no jigger of gin, vodka, demon rum, beer nor whiskey bottles anywhere, unlike what I saw on shelves within the kitchens of some neighboring children. By comparison, I thought other people had lives centered around alcohol.

One incident in particular found me down the street at a friend's home for supper (my mom and dad were elsewhere), and circumstances led me to necessarily escort my friend's mother to a Route 1 liquor store to stock up on alcohol for her hubby. I could only suppose he was going to drink his way through dinner. I waited in the car for what I thought was an interminably long period, with only the façade of the liquor store to ponder, noting how really U-G-L-Y it was. Creatively critical kids notice every detail.

Accordingly, if ingesting smells of alcohol processing could make one drunk, it didn't entice me. Calvert distillery on windy days stunk to high heaven. And when Calvert's storage facilities on Levering Ave. burned to the ground from fume explosions, well, 'nuff said...

Meanwhile, and anyhow, our kitchen in Edgewood Cottage had, in an upper wall, unlit creepy servant stairs behind which door led upstairs to my mother's studio. But one day to my surprise, on the 4th step up, was a bottle or two of Italian Benedictine sherry from which my parents served a little glass only when they entertained guests. However, the level of sherry in the bottle never changed. I knew because, as a concerned child, I checked. I knew my parents were not drinking. I guess think'n of providing for someone's addiction is the hallmark of entertaining -- don't you know?

However, as I later found out, one of my bratty older siblings admitted she and my brother drank the sherry & kept up the bottle levels by adding water. My parents apparently never caught on.

Then came a summer in July when I was maybe 6 or 7. During those years and across the street from our house, our neighbors nicely provided their lawn for the annual July 4 picnic. Such picnics were a Lawyers Hill tradition, along with parades, turtle races and baseball. So on that particular 4th, my mother left the gathering early to wash our dishes in solitude. Left behind with grown ups and being bored, I addled up to my dad who was talking and spied a



drink in his hand. I didn't want to believe it. The can didn't have the word "root" BEFORE the word "beer." I knew the difference and I was shocked. I asked him if he was really drinking beer and he said he was just "holding it."

I knew somp'n was up because his answer smelled bleary and he smiled too much. Did he mean he was holding the beer for

himself or for someone else? Immediately I ran home and found my mother at the kitchen sink. Looking up at her and with my most convincing concern, I whined that my daddy was "...becoming an alcoholic because I caught him holding a beer AND... AND he will eventually abandon us because he will be too drunk to care anymore !!!" Such was my deepest fear.

Though she tried to assure me that he was not drinking the beer, I was not readily convinced. Why would anyone just HOLD a can of beer? So I found something I could do about it – I ran back to the lawn party to tell dad, with my best child’s authority, to “put the can DOWN.” After all, I had to teach dad what he didn’t know to do for himself.

At the end of the day, mother did tell dad that I was very upset and that he shouldn’t do stuff like setting a questionable example, particularly while I was around. I don’t know what his retort was because I



was still dawdling at the lawn party after he went home. There were no fireworks. But, my imagination usually heard him saying, “Oh for pity sake, Flo...!”

After that, I heard no more about it.

Viaduct Newspaper Update

The entire collection of Viaduct Newspapers have been digitized, and we used some AI to get some summaries on our website in order to make them somewhat searchable. We keep finding things that the AI did not find, such as the closing of the Pharmacy, so we update those as we find them. Let us know if you find some things we should add to the website summaries for various issues! These are such a fun and valuable resource, since Elkridge went through so many big changes between 1987 and 2005 when they were published.

Website Update

Check out www.elkridgeheritage.org. We continue to grow the Elkridge Knowledge Base where we are collecting some of our historical tidbits in our collection. We also now have a store where you can purchase our wares (shipping charges to be determined but if we arrange to deliver in person in Elkridge, there is no delivery charge). You can also make donations from the website using PayPal.



5825 Main Street
 Elkridge, MD
 21075

443-406-8496

Mission Statement

To repair / care for the Elkridge Heritage Society’s headquarters, the Brumbaugh House, raise money to continue operations, build membership and share Elkridge Heritage / History through events, and to build a museum for public viewing.

Membership Form

Name		
Address		
Email		
Phone		
Membership Type - circle one	Individual (\$25/year)	Family (\$35/year)

Mail:

Mail this form and your check,
 payable to the Elkridge Heritage
 Society to:

Elkridge Heritage Society
 5825 Main Street
 Elkridge, MD 21075

Online:

Make an
 Online
 Contribution
 At:



<https://www.elkridgeheritage.org/donate>